The Good Old Cauſe

Explained, Revived, & Aſſerted.

AND

The *Long-Parliament* Vindicated.

IN

A *Remonſtrance* to his *Excellency* the Lord *Fleetwood* and *Councel of Officers.*

Being the Senſe and earneſt Deſires of many thouſands *honeſt well-affected* Perſons of the *Army* and *People* in this *Nation.*

With ſeveral *Expedients* humbly offered;

1. *For the ſettling and ſecuring of our* Civil *and* Spiritual Rights and Freedoms, *and the publique* Peace *of the* Nation.
2. *For the ſpeedy raiſing of Moneys to pay the* Arrears *of the* Army *and* Navy, *and future ſupply of other* Publique Ingagements, *as the moſt probable and viſible Way and Means now under* God *left to accompliſh the ſame; And preſerve us from that inevitable* Confuſion *and* Deſtruction *which hangs over and threatens the three* Nations.

THe things contended for with the late *King*, in the late *Warr*, (wherein there was great effuſion of *Chriſtian blood*, and vaſte *Treaſure* ſpent) Conſiſted principally of theſe particulars:

1. That our *Perſons* and *Eſtates* might not be diſpoſed of at the *Arbitrary will and pleaſure* of the *King* and his evill *Counſellours*, and other his looſe *adherents*; But ſecured and protected according to *Magna Charta*, the *Petition of Right*, and other wholeſome *Lawes* made for the Defence and Safety of the People, againſt *Tyranny*, *Oppreſſion*, and *Arbitrarineſs*, which in thoſe dayes were too often exerciſed.

2. To have our *Spiritual Rights and Freedoms* secured unto us; and the *honest conscientious people* preserved from the *Rage* and *Fury* of the *Bishops* and their *adherents*, who grievously *persecuted* many for *differences* in Judgment in point of *Form* and *Ceremonies*, and for not conforming to their *Canons* against the dictates of their own *Consciences*; though holding forth and agreeing in *Fundamentalls* warranted by *Scripture*.

3. Upon the whole, to have a thorough-*Reformation* of *Religion*, *Laws*, and *Manners*. And to have *Prophaneness*, *Licentiousnesse*, and *Looseneſſe* of Conversation discountenanced and suppressed; and true *Piety*, *Sobriety*, and *uprightnesse* of *Conversation*, *Righteousnesse* and *Peace*, encouraged and maintained.

4. And lastly, to have the *Militia* of the *Nation* secured and disposed of in such Hands, as might exercise the same for the *Defence* and *Common Preservation* of our *Lives*, *Liberties*, *Rights* and *Proprieties*. And to prevent the future use thereof, for the *introducing* and support of *Tyranny*, *Slavery*, and *Arbitrarinesse* in matters *Civil* and *Spiritual*, so highly attempted by the late *King* and his *Party*.

And it pleased the *Lord* of *Hosts* (after many sharp *Contests* and *bloudy Battels* fought betwixt the *King* and *Parliament* concerning the premisses) to decide the Quarrel on the *Parliaments* side, by the total *vanquishing* of the *King* and his *Party*; whereby the *Parliament* (who could by no other means prevail with the *King* to a reasonable *Condiscention* to the just things *demanded* from him) were now by the hand of *Providence* put in a capacity (without him) to effect the same, and accomplish the premisses; being the earnest and longing desires and fervent prayers of the *good People* of the *Nation*, who freely hazarded their Lives and Fortunes in this *Good Old Cause*, which no *good Man* hath cause to *renounce*, or be *ashamed* of. We say *GOOD*, Because it hath a tendency to the advancing of *Gods glory*, the *maintenance* and *Reformation* of the *Essentials* and *Body* of *Religion* in its *purity* according to the *word of God*, in opposition to *Popery*, *Atheism*, *Superstition* and *Prophaneness*; and the securing of the Peoples just *Rights*, *Liberties*, *Properties*, *Priviledges* and *Immunities*, against *Tyranny*, *Arbitrarinesse*, and *Oppression*.

OLD, Because Anciently and Originally all *Power* was in the *People*; and the design of setting up all *Governments* and *Governours*, was alwayes professed for the *good* of the *People*, who primarily had the power and choice of Electing both. But lost it by the *craft*, *policy*, and *sinister contrivances* of *aspiring-persons*, whose *Ambition* reached as high as the *Heavens*, and their *pride* would admit of no *Equal* on *Earth*.

The regaining our Liberties and Rights, and the re-investing the *Supream Authority* in the *Peoples Representatives* in Parliament, hath for many scores of years been the great *desires* of the *good people* of this *Nation*, to accomplish the ends aforesaid, being wearied with the former *Oppression and Slavery*, under *Kings*, *Lords*, and *Bishops*: which long before the late *Warrs* many thousands of the *Nations* would (which many of them often *declared* and *suffered for it*) willingly have shaken off, but could not effect the same, untill it pleased the *Lord* out of his *Almighty providence* (after the total *suppressing* of the power and interest of that *party* in these *Nations*) to put it into the hearts of that *good old Parliament*, to settle the *Government* in the way of a FREE STATE; which sort of *Government* is neither New nor Strange. The *Venetians* (the *Bulwark*

work of Christendome) having for many hundreds of years lived *happily* and *Victoriously* in the way of a *Common-wealth*. And our Neighbours the *States of Holland*, since they shook off the *Spanish Yoake*, have lived very *plentifully and comfortably*, and highly improved their *Trade* and *Interest*, whose *freedome* in the Exercise of their *Religion*, doth in no sort *obstruct* or *disturb* the *Government* or *peace* of that *State*. Nor would it probably prove otherwise in this *Nation*, if once the peoples *Spiritual* and *Civil Rights*, *Liberties* and *Proprieties*, were effectually settled and established. So that this *Good Old Cause* is of far longer standing, and hath its essence and beginning before the ten years times prefixed in a late printed paper, and long before the Author or his great Grandfather were born.

And in order to the securing the ends of this *Good Old Cause*, the *Parliament* Declared the Grounds of their late proceedings; And of settling the *Government* in the way of a FREE STATE: Which being seriously considered, is sufficient to satisfie every honest conscientious well-affected man touching that affair. The Office of *Kingly Power*, or under any other Name in a *single Person*, being well weighed, and the *Vaste Charge* to support it, and the manner and exercise thereof in these Nations duly considered, will appear to have served mostly to satisfie their own boundless *Ambition*, *Pride*, and *Cruelty*, *grinding* the faces of the *people*, and *prodigally* spending *Christian Bloud*, and the *Treasure* of the *Nations* upon *punctillioes* of *Honour*, personal *Titles*, and particular *revenge* and *distastes*, and other sinister ends, under pretence of *State-Policy*; Assuming to themselves that *Supremacy* in all matters, which none may question, much lesse punish, how *illegal*, *arbitrary*, or *unwarrantable* soever their actions may be. And their greedy *Courtiers*, *attendants* and *adherents* trampling upon, and oppressing the *Gentry* and poor *Commonalty* with their new invented *Rates*, *Taxes*, and *Monopolies* of all sorts, and other *Court-Inventions*, *Cum privilegio*. And their Courts have been frequently observed to be the *Patterns*, *Nurseries*, and *protectors* of *covetousnesse*, *pride*, *ambition*, and *looseneesse*. The Excesse of the Court, their relations and attendants, proving an intolerable charge and burthen on the *People*.

See their Declara-tion of 17 *March*, 1648.

The *Ends and Designs* for which the *Long Parliament* did thus change the *Government* from this *Tyranny*, into a *Free-State*, appears in their said printed *Declaration*, to be,

1. *To prevent a new and further expence and effusion of the Treasure and Blood of* England.

2. *To establish a firm and safe peace and an oblivion of all Rancor and ill-Will occasioned by the late troubles: The establishing the Government in any one single Person or Family, under what name or qualification soever, serving only to intayle a war on us and our posterities, to maintain personall interests, inconsistent with the good and welfare of the Nation.*

3. *To provide for the due Worship of God according to his word, the advancement of the true protestant Religion, and for the liberall and certain maintenance of godly Ministers.*

4. *To procure a just Liberty for the Consciences, Persons, and Estates of all men conformable to Gods glory and their own peace.*

5. *To endeavour vigorously the punishment of the cruell Murtherers in* Ireland, *the restoring of the honest Protestants and this Commonwealth to their rights there, and the full satisfaction of all Engagements for this work.*

6. *To provide for the setling and just observing of Treaties and Alliances with forraign Princes and States, for the encouragement of Manufactures, for the increase and flourishing of Trades at home, and the maintenance of the poor in all places of the Land.*

7. *To take care for the due Reformation and Administration of the Law and publique Justice, that the evill may be punished and the good rewarded.*

8. *To order the Revenue in such a way that the publique charges may be defrayed, the Souldiers Pay justly and duely setled; that free quarter may be wholly taken off, the People be eased in their Burthens and Taxes, and the debts of the Commonwealth be justly satisfied.*

9. *To remove all grievances and oppressions of the* People, *and to establish peace and righteousnesse in the Land.*

29. March, 1648. The *Parliament* passed an *Act*, for the abolishing of the *House of Lords*, that *grand Badge* and Relique of the *Norman Conquest*, which served only for a *Negative voyce* against the Peoples *just rights* and *liberties*, being the great *obstructors* of *good Lawes*, and *supporters* of the *arbitrary unlimited will and pleasure of Princes.*

It was *Enacted*;

19. May, 1649. That the People of England, and of all the Dominions and Territories thereto belonging, be constituted, made, established and confirmed to be a Common-wealth and Free State, and shall be henceforth governed as a Common-wealth and Free State, by the Supreme Authoritie of the Nation, the Representatives of the People in Parliament, And by such as they shall appoint Officers and Ministers of the good of the People, And that WITHOUT ANY KING OR HOUSE OF LORDS.

14. May, 1649. And it was Enacted, That if any person shall malitiously publish by writing, printing, or openly declaring, that the Government of the People, by its own Representatives, or Nationall meetings in Councel, is Tyrannicall usurped or unlawfull: Or that the Commons in Parliament Assembled, are not the Supreme Authority of the Nation: Or plot, contrive, or endeavour to raise force against the present Government, or the subversion or alteration of the same: And shall declare the same by an open Deed, every such offence shall be adjudged HIGH-TREASON. Which Acts are yet unrepealed.

That

That the Parliament (though they were *famous* for their *Heroick and worthy Acts*) not giving satisfaction to all men in all things, were by some (as is conceived unadvisedly) interrupted 20 *April*, 1655. who have many of them since (on serious consideration of the ill consequence thereof, and the hidden designs and private ends of some amongst them,) heartily repented them thereof, and openly confessed and declared the same, and their other *backslidings* and *fallings off* from that *good old Cause*.

By reason of which *interruption*, the *Parliament* were *obstructed* and *dis-enabled* from accomplishing the *good things* hoped for and by them promised and intended to have been wrought for the *People*.

And since that time, What great *changes* have hapned both in the *Government* and *Governours*? what daubings with *untempered mortar*, and *flattering applications* have been made, and apparent *violations* of all former *Oaths*, *Covenants*, *Promises*, *Declarations* and *Ingagements*, deserting of their *good old Professions and Principles*, even by many who before were eminent and precious men for their *piety and integrity*? And all to patch a *Government distastful* and *abominable* to *God* and *good men*; and so repugnant to the *Judgements*, *Consciences* and *affections* of the honest *well affected*, *unbiassed people* of the *Nations* and this *good old Cause*, that their spirits were *grieved* and *tormented*; their hearts *trembled*, their bowels did *yearn* within them for these great *abominations*, and high *breach* of *faith* and *trust* committed in the face of the *Nation*: who by the *ambitious* and *covetous designs* of *carnall* men, displeasing to *God*, are brought low, the *Trade*, *Treasure*, and *Honour* of the *Nation* being decayed, lost, and exhausted, and excessive debts contracted on them.

But to adde *iniquity* to sin, and *aggravate* these their *transgressions*, How many *godly*, *honest* and *well-affected* people, have been since persecuted, imprisoned, *executed*, *banished*, and *oppressed* for a *good Conscience*; their Goods and Estates taken from them, contrary to the known *Lawes* of the *Nation*, and *liberties of the People*, which the *Actors* thereof so often *vowed*, *promised* and *declared* to maintain.

What *Inquisitors* were set up to block up and obstruct the wayes of the *righteous*; How many men of loose *principles and carnal ends*, were approved and intrusted with the work of the *Ministry*; How many good men put by, and their mouthes stopped? And how many wayes were used to suppress the *Good old Cause*, and the reall professors and patterns of true Religion and Piety: We leave it to the good people of the Nation to judge of. The Lord having eminently born witness, and testified his high displeasure against these *iniquities and abominations*.

And that which is *wonderful* in the eyes of all men, With what *violence* and *inconsiderateness* the LAWYERS and other *disaffected ambitious persons* in the late *Parliament*, did carry on the Design of *Kingship*. And the re-establishing of *King*, *Lords* and *Bishops*, tending to the re-investing of *Charls Stuart*, and his party. How ready they were to give away the *Militia*, *Strength and Treasure of the Nation*, into the hands of a *single Person*, contrary to the aforesaid *Act* and all former *Declarations*, *Propositions*, and *Ingagements*, pleading for, and earnestly contending to *inslave* themselves and their *Posterity*. And at one breath, to give away all the *rights*, *freedoms* and *liberties* of the *People*, which during many years *warre* with the price of so much *Blood* and *Treasure* they had gained.

But the *Lord our God* having stirred your Spirits to put a stop to these *exorbitant* and *unsafe proceedings*, and once more to give the opportunity to *advance*

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the *Kingdom of Christ*, To *propagate* the *Gospel*, and to countenance and support the *profession and professors thereof*, To repair and *heal our breaches*, To regulate the *Lawes* and Courts of *Justice*, And by *Gods* assistance, to lay a sure *foundation*, for the future *intailing* and *securing* of our *civil and Spiritual rights* to us and our *Posterity*, that we and they may have cause to pray for you, and God may blesse and prosper your *undertakings*. And having considered the present extraordinary *vicissitudes*, And that most rational men, acknowledge the *Legislative power*, is *primarily* and *originally* in the People, for whose only mutuall good, all *Lawes and Governments* ought to be constituted according to that good old Maxime, *Salus populi suprema lex*.

And all personal and private advantages and promotions in competition therewith, ought to be layd aside, and wholly put out of *remembrance*, And every individual person ought to study the *general peace*, *welfare*, and *comfort* of the *whole*. Give us leave then in all meeknes and humility of Spirit, to lay these things before you, as so many *mementoes* of *former actions*, that you may thereby avoid the like *evill*, and prevent those *inconveniences* which must consequently attend all *private* and *sinister respects*, repugnant to the *publique*, having no cause to be *jealous* of your *integrity*. But the sad consideration of the *failings* and total *fallings* away of many *pious* and *worthy* persons that went before you, whose wings were *clogged*, and themselves *insnared* with the worldly temptation of Satan to our Saviour, who have preferred and embraced an *Earthly Tabernacle*, before the *Eternal Kingdom* of Heaven; we have better hopes of you. And our prayers shall not cease to the *Lord*, that your *zeal* and *affection* to his people, may not be abated for any terrestrial Concernments.

Propoſalls for future peace and ſettlement of the Nations.

1 That the *long Parliament*, ſo, as aforeſaid, interrupted in their proceedings, who ſetled the Government in the way of a *Free State*, may be forthwith convened and re-eſtabliſhed. And for that purpoſe, The Army and other good people of the Nation, would declare to ſtand by, and proteſt them in order to an effectual ſettlement of the good things by them promiſed and held forth to the People in their ſaid Declaration of the 17th of *March*, 1648. And for further proviſion to be made, as may conduce to the peace and welfare of the Nations, being the moſt viſible remaining Authority, and moſt probable perſons to effect the ſame, ſince the late Warres for the publique ſatisfaction of all perſons, forms, and degrees of men in theſe Nations.

2. That all others of the long *Parliament*, that ſhall concur with them in reducing the Government, in the way of *Free State*; And ſhall ſubſcribe to, and own their and the Armies proceedings againſt the late King and his party, be afterwards admitted, and all vacant places filled.

3 That after ſuch ſettlement, an Act may be paſſed for an equal Repreſentative and diſtribution of Elections for the future, with fitting qualifications and proviſions for the future ſecuring of our peace, rights, liberties and priviledges.

4 That the Militia of the Nation may be incruſted in the hands of perſons well affected to the Nation, and the Intereſt of a Free State.

5 That all Malignants and perſons ill affected to this ſettlement that have crept into places military or civil, may be removed. And that thoſe Officers and Souldiers,

Souldiers, that for their integrity to this *Good old Cauſe*, or for a good Conſcience have been put out, may be ſpeedily reſtored.

6 That the Lawes and exhorbitances of Courts of Juſtice and Offices, may be regulated, and the People eaſed from the obſtructions, charge, and delayes in Law proceedings.

7 That the Arreares of the Army and Navy, may be payd, and for the future ſecured. And that no perſon be diſplaced in an arbitrary manner as formerly, without due ſummons, examinations, and other legall proceedings againſt them, according to the Lawes, Martial and Civil.

8 That proviſion be made for tender Conſciences, and others differing in matters of form, and they freed from the former perſecutions.

9 That an Act of Indemnity and Pardon, may be made for the Officers and Souldiers of the Army; and others that have legally acted in publique places, ſuitable to the nature and exigency of thoſe affaires.

10 That effectual meanes be uſed, to beget and continue peace, and a right underſtanding betwixt Us and our Neighbour-Nations, hereby Trade and Commerce may be encouraged and maintained, being almoſt loſt and decayed, to the ruine of many Merchants and Families.

Propoſalls for raiſing of monies.

1 That a grand Committee be appointed, and a ſub-Committee authorized in every County, to examine and take the accompts of all Committees, Commiſſioners, Exciſemen, Treaſurers, Receivers, Farmers and Collectors of the publique monies and Revenues belonging to the State, many ſober knowing men, being of opinion, that there remains above 100000 *l.* unaccompted for, out of the Tithes and Church-livings in *Wales*, which was in great meaſure diſcovered, and under examination in the laſt Parliament.

2 That either the Fees and Salaries of the grand Officers belonging to the reſpective Courts of the Nation may be retrenched and regulated. Or rather, an yearly Mulct impoſed on them, ſuitable to the profits of their places, to continue untill the publique debts of the Nation be payd.

3 That the Fees of the grand Officers of the Army, and of other publique imployments, may be likewiſe retrenched, untill the publique debts and arrears of the Army and Navy be payd. And that Companies and Troops ſhall conſiſt of full numbers, *viz.* each Company 120 beſides Officers; & every Troop 100. And that ſuperfluous Officers may be ſpared, to eaſe the burthen of the Common-wealth, which ſeemes but reaſonable in time of peace, and otherwiſe provided for, and incouraged in publique imployments.

4 That ſuch eminent and wealthy perſons, who were the chief and main Inſtruments, in altering the Government from a Free State, and ſupporting the ſame, ſuch who have been inſtrumentall in oppreſſing the Nation, and exerciſing Tyranny and arbitrarineſs on the good people, and Inhabitants thereof, and have otherwiſe contributed to the great wrongs and grievances impoſed on the Nation and every individual member thereof, in miſleading and miſguiding the Army and others the honeſt well-meaning people of the Nation; And ſuch as have endeavoured, or effected the betraying of our Lawes, Liberties, and Priviledges, in matters civil and ſpiritual; and the ſetting up of Kingſhip, or the Powers military or civil, in one ſingle perſon, contrary to the aforeſaid Acts, for ſettling the Government in the way of a Free State, may be fined to the value of the 3d, or at

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least the 5th part of their Estates reall and personal, towards the pay of the Army and Navy, and defraying of other publique charges of the Nation. And an Act of Pardon and Indempnity for the rest, which is both favourable and moderate, since it is humbly conceived, they have forfeited their lives and Estates, by the strictness of those Acts of the 14th and 19th *March*, 1648. And many of the offendors have gained vast Estates by the late Warres and other publique Imployments.

Before we leave you, and you desert us, you are desired to consider,

1. THe Potency and Multitude of the *Enemies* at home and abroad, The Interest of the Family of the *Stuarts*; The *Treaties*, *Peace*, *Confederacies* and *Alliances* of Forreign *Princes* and *States* whom you have disobliged; and by your *Divisions* and *unsettlednesse* rendred your selves almost uncapable of *Treaties* and Accommodation of *Peace*; your *Faith*, *Credit*, and *Stedfastnesse* of your Resolutions being doubted as well by your *Friends* as *Foes*.

2. If you return to the *Petition and Advice*, do you not give your late *Representation and Addresse* a deniall? Have you done well to break the last *Parliament* to assert the *Good Old Cause*, and immediately after trample it under your feet; and wholly to desert your friends and principles, who will leave you and your *single Interest* and *Family* to perish in your own self-seeking wayes? Must you not then call another Parliament? and will they answer your expectations? or rather Chastise you for dissolving the last, and wholly disband you.

3. Can the Interest of a *single Family* in opposition to the *Stuarts*, long subsist? Will not the Interest of a *Free-State* more probably support and preserve us in peace, and satisfie the ends of the *Army*, and the pressing Desires of the People; whose general good and Interest will be involved therein, and every man bound to venture life and fortune to maintain it; even the Cavalier, who in *honour* and *honesty* cannot be either compelled or perswaded to set up and support one Family-Interest against the other, who may have more of Law, Right and Reason on his side, and many *Oaths* to Oblige them thereto; which will not be so, if you establish a *Free-State*.

4. Do you not find the Judgments, Affections, and Desires of the generality of the good People for a *Free-State*; And the *Nobility*, *Gentry*, and *Commonalty* against a *single Person* and the *Other House*, which is so obnoxious to all men, both for its Constitution and Qualification.

5. Will you adventure to set up a *Councel*, *Senate*, or *Parliament* of your own nomination which you may as easily pull down, new modell, and change? and can you imagine this *Nation* will submit to such *arbitrary* proceedings, and be governed by the sole power of a Confused unsettled Army?

6. For your own and the Nations Common preservation, give life and motion to the Conversion of the *Late Parliament*, as the only refuge left for you and us, under God, and the sole Expedient that can cure and heal our diseases: Delayes are dangerous.

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